

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard, comprising:

a first band mounted on a first side of the base plate;

a second band mounted on a second side of the base plate opposite the first side of the base plate in a width direction, the second band being removably attached to the first band, so as to fasten a toe end portion of the boot to the base plate, the second band fastening the toe end portion at an acute angle with respect to the base plate and the toe end portion of the boot;

a pad attached to one of the first band and the second band at an upper surface of the pad, the pad comprises a first part with a lower surface contacting a front surface of the toe end portion of the boot, a second part with a lower surface contacting an upper surface of the toe end portion of the boot, and a connecting member extending between the first and second parts having a shape matching that of the toe end portion of the boot

~~wherein the second band fastens the toe end portion at an acute angle with respect to the base plate and the toe end portion of the boot.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the pad ~~is~~ includes a soft material.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 1 4 wherein the pad ~~is~~ includes a hard material.

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard, comprising:

a first band mounted on a first side of the base plate;

a second band mounted on a second side of the base plate opposite the first side of the base plate in a width direction; and

a ~~pad~~ third band mounted on the first band at a first portion and removably attached to the second band at a second portion, the third band including first and second belts, the first and second belts respectively having a first end secured to the first portion of the first band and a second end secured to the second portion of the second band, the first and second belts being separated in middle portions thereof, wherein the pad fastens third band fastening to a toe end portion of the boot at an acute angle with respect to the base plate and the toe end portion.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard, comprising:

a fixing structure ~~connects~~ connecting a first side of the base plate to a second side of the base plate at an acute angle with respect to a toe end of the boot, the fixing structure including a first belt holding a front portion of the toe end of the boot and a second belt holding a top portion of the toe end of the boot, the first and second belts having common first and second ends and being separated in middle portions thereof; and

a first band that removably ~~connects~~ connecting the fixing structure ~~connects~~ to the first side of the base plate.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 7, the fixing structure further comprising:

~~a first belt for fastening an upper portion of the toe end of the boot to the base plate;~~

~~a second belt for fastening a front portion of the toe end of the boot to the base plate, the first belt and the second belt being connected to each other at first ends thereof and connected to each other at second ends thereof; and~~

a second band ~~connected~~ connecting removably to the first ends of the first belt and the second belt, and ~~connected~~ connecting fixedly to the second side of the base plate,

wherein the second ends of the first belt and the second belt are removably connected to the first band.

9. (Original) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 8, wherein the first belt and the second belt are formed integrally with respect to each other.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 7, wherein, ~~the fixing structure comprising:~~

~~a first belt for fastening an upper portion of the toe end of the boot to the base plate; and~~

~~a second belt for fastening a front portion of the toe end to the of the boot to the base plate, the first belt and the second belt being~~ are fixedly connected to each other at the first ends

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thereof and removably connected to each other at the second ends thereof, ~~wherein~~ the first ends of the first belt and the second belt are removably connected to the first band, and the second ends of the first belt and the second belt are removably connected directly to the second side of the base plate.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 10, wherein the first ends of the first belt and the second belt are adjustable with respect to the first band, and the second ends of the first belt and the second belt are not adjustable with respect to the second side of the base plate.

12. (Original) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 10, wherein the first ends of the first belt and the second belt are adjustably connected directly to the second side of the base plate.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

a pad for covering the toe end of the boot disposed between the first belt and the second belt, the pad having a shape matching that of the toe end portion of the boot.

14. (Original) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 13, wherein the first belt, the second belt and the pad are formed integrally with respect to each other.

15. (Original) The apparatus for binding a boot to a base plate of a snowboard as set forth in claim 7, wherein the first band is adjustable with respect to the first ends of the first belt and the second belt.

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